GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5204
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu);Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the existing environmental laws including a withdrawal of mandatory environmental clearance ahead of modernization of airports and ports as reported in the 'Mint' dated March, 07, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the environmental activists have opposed such move of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the reasons given by them; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) & (b): The environmental clearances are accorded to developmental projects under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 which has been enacted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The schedule of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 lists various activities, which include Airports at item 7(a) and Ports and Harbours at item 7(e), and there is no proposal to delete any of the entries of the schedule. No decision has been taken regarding environmental clearance for the modernization of airports as on date.

(c): No formal representation has been received with respect to environmental clearance for modernization of airports.

(d) & (e) : Do not arise, in view of the reply to the part (c) above.